



➤ AROMAS DEL SUR ➤

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“Aromas Del Sur” offers cuisine and ambiance quite a bit different from most other restaurants in Ephrata and northern Lancaster County. If you’re like me and enjoy Spanish food, I believe you’ll find the restaurant’s authentic Colombian fare a breath of fresh air.

Upon entering the dining room, you’ll find Aromas Del Sur to have a casually inviting atmosphere with touches of South American culture. It’s not fancy, but it has a subtle air of elegance. The music, the table settings, the lighting, the genuine hospitality...they all blend together to make you feel welcome and relaxed.

Because the menu offers selections unique to anything I and my two dinner companions have experienced elsewhere, we asked Aromas del Sur owner, Arturo, to advise us. He was most accommodating. And we observed he visited every table to assist in that way and to check in to make sure everything was to his guests’ liking.

Aromas del Sur has an ample assortment of appetizers, salads, and desserts and an array of entrees featuring beef, pork, chicken, and seafood. We began our meal by sharing a sampling of Empanadas (Colombian meat pies)—one chicken, one beef, and one cheese. They were delightful...and perfectly

accompanied by Aromas’ salsa-style sauce which has got some serious kick (if you’re a fan of hot and spicy like me, you’ll love it!). Of course, our adventurous appetites weren’t satisfied with just one variety of appetizer, so we also ordered what Arturo told us is another crowd favorite, “Yucca Frita” (deep-fried root of the cassava plant). It reminded us of sweet potato fries, but with a lighter taste and color. They served it with their tasty, creamy own-made dipping sauce.

While we aimed to choose three different entrees, one of my friends and I both set our sights on the same dish. So we ended up sampling just two main menu items.

Two of us dined on *Sobrebarriga a la Criolla*, flank steak marinated in criolla sauce and served with potato, cassava, salad, rice, beans and plantains. It was remarkable both in taste and presentation. Because I like food with some “heat,” I ordered mine spicy while my friend ordered hers mild. Both versions pleased the palate. With portions far more than we could handle in a single sitting, we happily took what remained on our plates “to go.” My husband, who was under the weather at the time of our meal, ate my leftovers the next day and affirmed the magnificence of my selection.



Our other dinner companion ordered *Camarones al Ajillo*, which is shrimp in a creamy garlic butter sauce. It, too, was served with a salad, rice, and plantains. While the portion wasn't as plentiful as the flank steak, he said he found it outstanding and would definitely order it again.

I should note that although Aromas del Sur does not have a liquor license, you are welcome to bring a bottle of your favorite wine, beer, or cocktail ingredients (which they will mix for you) to accompany your meal.

After a couple at the table next to us sang the praises of their dessert, *Brevas con Queso* (figs with cheese and caramel), we decided to try it, too. We found it decadent to just the right degree as the finale to our memorable meal.

I very much recommend Aromas del Sur for both the cuisine and the taste of Colombian pride and culture. I hope you'll take the opportunity to experience dining there. When you do, tell Arturo I sent you! ■



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